

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 PURPOSE**

This document is the “finalizing addendum” to the Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR) prepared for the consideration of a 10-year extension of the marine terminal lease by the California State Lands Commission (CSLC or Commission) for the proposed Ellwood Marine Terminal (EMT) Lease Renewal Project. The Project applicant is Venoco, Inc. This document, together with the Draft EIR distributed for public review in July 2006, constitutes the Final EIR for the proposed Project.

This Final EIR has been prepared by the CSLC pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (the CEQA) (section 21000 et seq., California Public Resources Code), in accordance with the Guidelines for the Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act (section 15000 et seq., California Code of Regulations, Title. 14). An EIR must be prepared for any project that may have a significant impact on the environment. The Ellwood Marine Terminal Lease Renewal Project is a “project” as defined by the State CEQA Guidelines. Upon preliminary review, the CSLC determined that the Ellwood Marine Terminal Lease Renewal Project may have a significant adverse impact on the environment and, therefore, an EIR is required. The CSLC selected an environmental contractor to prepare the EIR to ensure that the document reflects an independent, objective analysis of the proposed Project.

The CSLC is the lead agency for this proposal, and the Final EIR will be used by the CSLC as part of its processes, including setting the conditions of the lease agreement, if approved, and incorporating mitigation measures for project implementation. A Mitigation Monitoring Program is incorporated in Section 6 of the Draft EIR, and revisions to the text of the Draft EIR are presented in Section 4 of this document.

### **1.2 ORGANIZATION OF FINAL EIR**

The Final EIR consists of the following elements:

- The Draft EIR;
- A list of persons, organizations, and public agencies commenting on the Draft EIR (see Section 2);
- Comments and recommendations received on the Draft EIR (see Section 3);

- Responses to significant environmental points raised in the review and consultation process (see Section 3). For ease of reference, those portions of the hearing transcripts reflecting comments by parties submitting letters immediately follow such letters. The transcripts in their entirety are in the appendices; and
- Revisions to the text of the Draft EIR (see Section 4).

### 1.3 DECISION-MAKING PROCESS

Since the proposed Project would not include construction of new facilities or modifications to existing facilities, the Applicant would not require any additional new permits or approvals. However, the existing facilities are currently subject to existing permits, approvals, and regulatory requirements. The following regulatory agencies and reviewing authorities have granted existing permits and approvals and will be reviewing this document.

- City of Goleta (Franchise Agreement for Line 96);
- Santa Barbara County (Ordinance 2919 [95-DP-024], Venoco, Inc.'s Operating Permit for the EOF and the EMT);
- SBCAPCD (Permits to Operate 8232-R5 and 8233-R5);
- UCSB (Lease of the onshore property expiring in 2016);
- California Coastal Commission;
- California Department of Fish and Game Office of Spill Prevention and Response (OSPR);
- California State Fire Marshall;
- Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board; and
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The CSLC is the CEQA lead agency for this Final EIR because the Commission has jurisdiction over the State tidelands and submerged lands that would be occupied by the proposed Project. The CSLC will use the Final EIR in its decision-making processes to help determine whether to issue a lease of State lands for the proposed Project.

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